GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2367
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
CHILD MARRIAGE
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are number of States where thousands of children aged two and above are married in spite of prohibition on these marriages;

(b) if so, the States where marriages of children are taking place;

(c) whether no action is being taken against them;

(d) whether Supreme Court in the month of May 2003 issued notices to the Centre and 10 States on a petition seeking the Court's direction to them to prevent child marriages;

(e) if so, the reply given by the Centre and States in this regard; and

(f) the efforts being made to check the child marriages in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

(a),(b)&(c) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases registered under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 were 89(1996), 78(1997), 56(1998), 58(1999), 92(2000) and 85(2001).

(d)&(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The National Commission for Women launched a campaign in May 2003 against child marriage in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh through the respective State Commissions for Women. Awareness programmes were held and the Chief Secretaries alerted and requested to take preventive steps. An advertisement was also placed in the national dailies during Akha Teej.